

# Henderson cites Coe's 'air of mediocrity'

By KEVIN KANE  
Cosmos Editor-in-Chief

Coe has one really outstanding characteristic, which is never advertised, and that is of course, its mediocrity."

Retiring Student Council President Gene Henderson, shortly before he was named "Outstanding Senior Man" Tuesday night, used these words to take a realistic look at Coe before ending his Oak Oration on a hopeful note.



ANN CARPENTER

... Outstanding

## Henderson, Carpenter picked as 'outstanding'

Gene Henderson, retiring Student Council President from Monona, and Ann Carpenter, former Chi Omega president from Indianola, were named "Outstanding Seniors" by the Cedar Rapids Chamber of Commerce at Tuesday's Senior Convocation.

Henderson, a biology and general science major, is past president of Sigma Nu fraternity. Miss Carpenter, who plans to go into teaching, is a German major.

HENDERSON, also president of Sachers, named five new members to the men's honor society at the convocation: seniors Ed Spence, Normandy, Mo.; and juniors Arthur J. Griffin, Dubuque; Richard Henry, Brookfield, Wis.; Seth Harkins, Hoffman Estates, Ill.; and David Christophel, Oelwein.

Present, women's honor society also tapped eight new members under the direction of President Marilyn Rusche of Mason, Ill.; Beverly Stonebraker and Johanna Josephson, both of Denver; Judy Blake, Bloomington, Minn.; Mary Eby, Cedar Rapids; Nancy Catus, Philadelphia; Sue Hoffmann, Arvada, Colo.; Diane Scruggs, Lynchburg, Va.; and Marilyn Eckels, Merville, Ill.

NEW Council President Tim Mauldin, of Oklahoma City, and Vice-President

"THIS AIR of mediocrity pervades the campus like the aroma from Quaker Oats permeates the Cedar Rapids area," Henderson continued.

"It is inherent in almost everything that is done and it will continue to survive and spread until the faculty and administration, and especially the students, permit it no longer."

Henderson leveled specific criticisms at the present operation under the 3-3 academic system, the college's declining athletic program, "isolationist" social restrictions, indifferent faculty members, and both student apathy and petty squabbles.

"IT SEEMS to me that Coe College spends more time and energy going through the motions of trying to improve than it does in actually improving the system," he stated. "As long as everything looks good, serenity prevails."

However, Henderson constantly returned to the theme he began with by opening with the reading of Robert Frost's fa-

mous poem "The Road Not Taken," as he emphasized that each student, faculty member, and administrator was able, through individual effort, to change Coe's present image of "mediocrity."

"INEVITABLY a saturation point must and will be reached, when the people involved will no longer accept the superficial," he stressed. "I sincerely hope that this time is approaching at Coe."

The retiring Council President then cited various aspects of the college's program which might be said to have reached the "saturation point" in their mediocrity.

**THE 3-3 SYSTEM** — "The system is a beautiful idea . . . But the 3-3 system at Coe is not living up to expectations. It is declining because there has been very little to follow up to its initiation."

**ATHLETICS** — "Not only do our athletic teams fail to achieve a level of superiority, but they periodically cannot find enough to participate. It seems highly ironic to me that a college can spend \$30,000 of its money on an indoor track that will be used competitively by about one one-hundredth of its student population."

"Unless I knew otherwise, I would almost believe that some unknown force is purposely trying to curb the quality of our athletic teams . . . There is something violently wrong with the system when scores of high school athletes enroll at Coe, highly enthusiastic and energetic, only to find their enthusiasm and energies turned into apathy and frustration."

**SOCIAL RESTRICTIONS** — "Where else in society is a man, old enough to vote, drink, and fight not allowed the privilege of choosing his own living facilities?"

**FACULTY** — "It is not enough for a faculty member on a campus of this size to appear for class and keep office hours. He must go beyond this. He must go out of his way to reach the individual student and to form personal relationships."

**STUDENTS** — "But students, we have no one to blame but ourselves. We have become so

drawn up in our cozy little shells of self-existence that we have overlooked the primary functions of our college education. We are too busy to question the status quo."

\* \* \*

IN HER Ivy Oration, Ann Carpenter recalled memories from the last four years ranging from the Class of 1968's "first Saga line" to a tornado blackout before she finished with a more serious kicker:

"Routineness of life and getting ourselves into a rut won't end at Coe. The next rut we get ourselves into will last a great deal longer than four years."

Looking toward the future and most likely working five days consecutively out of seven, she pointed out that in 13 days college life will no longer be routine for the seniors, but will be only memories.

"CUTTING classes, especially the eight o'clock, it was just too hard to make, playing football or softball for a few hours on warm afternoons, lying in the sun between or after classes, taking PUB breaks and feeling it was the right time for the Kozy, Sip 'N Stir, or the Drite," she said. "These will all be pleasant memories of the routine here."



**SWEARING IN** — Retiring Student Council President Gene Henderson (right), who was also selected "Outstanding Senior Man," swears in (from left) new Council President Tim Mauldin and Vice-President Ted Houlihan at Tuesday's convocation.

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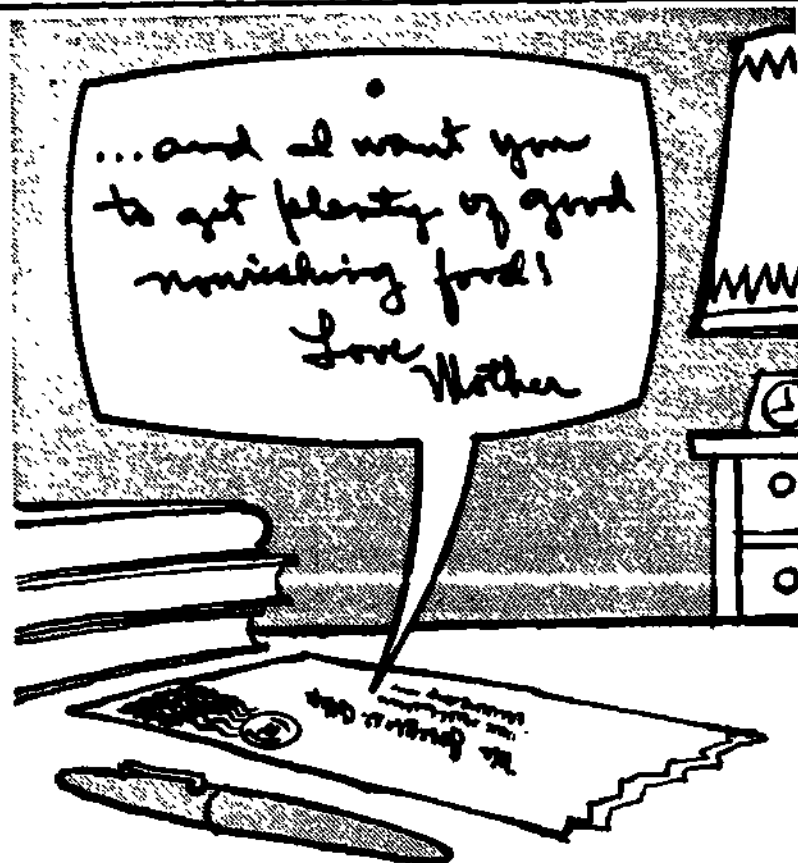
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